



Seward Memorial Library News

"Sea Seward" Summer Promotion Was Popular

"Sea Seward" was the 2010 community promotion in connection with the library's summer reading theme of "Make a Splash – READ!" Individuals as well as families traveled to almost 50 local businesses searching for sea creatures to add to their tracking sheet. The winner of the random drawing, picked from about 80 returned sheets, was announced at the Summer Reading Club Pool Party on July 25 at the Dowding Municipal Pool. Pam Krenk received \$100 cash from the Friends of Seward Library. Recipients of other donated prizes were also announced. Seward Memorial Library thanks all of those businesses who contributed to the drawing and partnered with the library for this annual event.



**Seward Memorial Library will be CLOSED on
Saturday, August 28 for floor maintenance.**

Solve a Mystery and Find a Treasure



Seward Memorial Library is hosting an outdoor activity in connection with the mystery, *Down River*, the 2010 *All Seward Reads Together* title. Dr. Joel Helmer from Concordia University will guide participants on an evening of geocaching. The group will be engaged in a high-tech mystery, hunting for treasures using Global Positioning System (GPS) devices on Thursday, August 5. Participants will meet at the library at 7 p.m. and travel to Concordia's campus. Space is limited so pre-registration is required. Those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Call 643-3318 by August 3 to sign up and experience this new outdoor hobby.

**Registration for Fall programs
begins on Wednesday, August 18.
Fall programs begin after
Labor Day, September 7.**

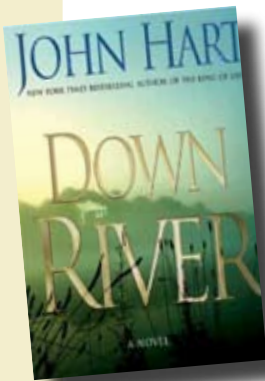
**Seward Memorial Library
233 South Fifth Street
Seward, NE 68434
402-643-3318**

www.sewardlibrary.org

July 2010

Volunteers Make a Difference

Seward Memorial Library would like to thank the crew of young people who did not sleep in this summer because they were helping with Story Time at the library each morning. The staff is also grateful for the extra hands who passed out glue, crayons, peanut butter, cheese, beach balls, water balloons, and other afternoon program components. These people deserve a pat on the back for being flexible and willing to join in games, crafts, and other surprising events created by the staff during our “Make a Splash – READ!” summer. The staff enjoyed leading the children during June and July with many extra feet and fingers joining in to maximize the time spent in programs. The staff appreciates this group of people and their valuable donation . . . TIME!



All Seward Reads Together Book Discussion in August

Seward Memorial Library will host an evening discussion of the 2010 *All Seward Reads Together* title, *Down River* by John Hart. Enjoy time with other readers and relax with refreshments while conversing about Hart’s mystery filled with family intrigue on Wednesday, August 18 at 7 p.m. The library has several copies available so there is still time to read this suspense novel. Everyone is welcome.

We Were Wet This Summer ... and Loved It!

During June and July the library staff hosted many programs for children in the Seward community. Story Time children spent time listening to the rain, learning about pond life, beachcombing, visiting the ocean, and sailing boats. They took home jumping frogs, paper boats, shells, and lots of special library memories filled with books, songs, rhymes, and games.

The afternoon programs had weekly themes. School age children enjoyed afternoons featuring water and weather, pond life, ocean creatures, beach activities, and water play. Children learned from fishing experts, watched water experiments, created sand castles from cheese and bread cubes, and actually got soaked during water games. Of course, children were exposed to books related to all of these “splashingly” wonderful events. The staff enjoyed stretching their imaginations and rose to meet the challenge of executing a water theme with the children. Next summer the staff will take children around the world with an international theme. The staff is already thinking about ways to transport children across borders through books and enrich their lives at Seward Memorial Library.

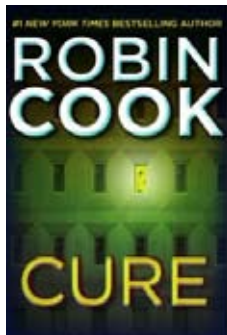
Used Book Bash Success

Despite the rain and inclement weather the Used Book Bash at Seward Memorial Library was a success. While some events were canceled on the 4th of July, the library was active with many readers and browsers. People carried home bags of books or just a few titles to add to their personal collections. The library would like to thank the community for their book donations and also the Friends members who helped with the event.

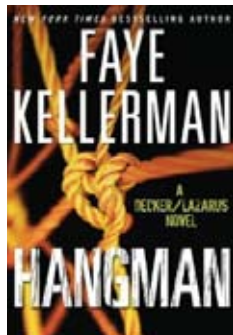
A library is...

“...the source of our culture.” — Joseph Girzone

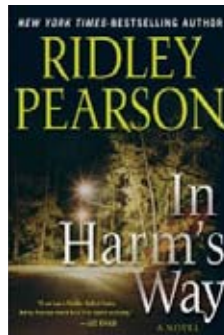
New Books Coming Soon



Cure
by Robin Cook



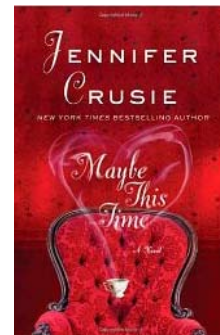
Hangman
by Faye Kellerman



In Harm's Way
by Ridley Pearson



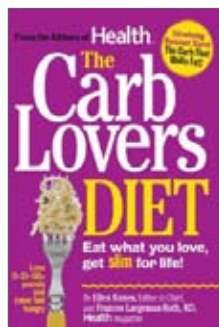
No Mercy
by Sherrilyn Kenyon



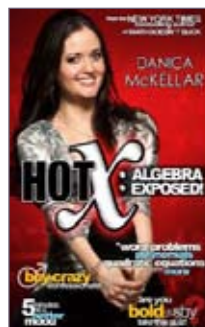
Maybe This Time
by Jennifer Crusie



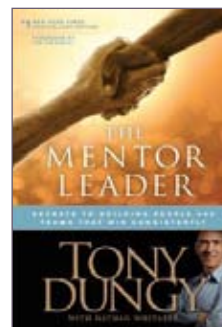
Angelina
by Andrew Morton



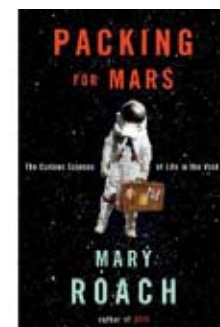
The Carb Lovers Diet
by Ellen Kunes



*Hot X:
Algebra Exposed!*
by Danica McKellar



The Mentor Leader
by Tony Dungy



Packing for Mars
by Mary Roach

More Fiction Titles Coming Soon:

The Postcard Killers by James Patterson
Scarlet Nights by Jude Deveraux
Burnt Mountain by Anne Rivers Siddons

Queen of the Night by J.A. Jance
The Red Queen by Philippa Gregory

Sea World in Seward Memorial Library

The children in the Summer Reading Club have been avid readers. This year the goal was to earn 20,100 points, but busy readers in Seward have already surpassed this number with a total of almost 23,000. Great work! Proof of this accomplishment can be viewed in the Children's Reading Room where the south wall panorama of sea water is swarming with colorful fish and other sea creatures. Each one represents many pages and marks milestones in the child's



reading. Among the school of fish are large sea horses who announce which children have earned 500 points! Check out who has made this wonderful summer achievement. Our wet, rainy summer has contributed to a watery success as our families "Make a Splash – READ!"

A library is...

"... full of mouth-watering food for thought."
— Diana Wynne Jones

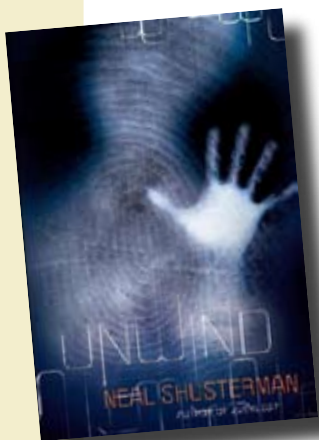
Unwind Book Review by Carla Ketner

Following the popularity of the *One Book One Nebraska* program, the Nebraska Library Commission has introduced a similar program for children and teenagers. Each year a book will be selected for either *One Book for Nebraska Teens* or *One Book for Nebraska Kids*. Kids or teenagers across the state can then read and discuss a book as adults have been doing with the *One Book One Nebraska* selections.

The second book chosen for teens is *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman, a science fiction novel for teenagers. I read the book because Shusterman's previous books, such as my favorite *The Schwa Was Here* and its more recent companion *Antsy Does Time*, are provocative, creative, well-written, and very entertaining novels for teens. I expected *Unwind* to be as clever as the Schwa books, and though it lacks their humor, I was not disappointed by its originality.

Unwind tells of a futuristic American society that has fought a civil war over abortion rights. The outcome of this war is that abortion is illegal, but parents may instead “unwind” their children between the ages of 13 and 18 years old. If a child is incorrigible or lacking in talent, parents may choose to have their child's body disassembled and the organs sold to others who need replacement parts due to injury or illness. Technically, the child is not killed, since his or her organs all remain in living people. Sixteen year old Connor is shocked when he discovers that his parents plan to have him “unwound.” He runs away and encounters a network of other runaway unwinds in a system that is not unlike the Underground Railroad that helped slaves achieve their freedom before the real Civil War.

Of course we would never consider “unwinding” our own teenage children, though every parent would agree that the idea might be appealing at one time or another. Every teen seeking to grow into his or her own identity has probably also felt that their parents don't understand them. Teen readers will relate to the book's young characters because they also are trying to discover just who they are and where their talents lie. Both of my boys read *Unwind*, and both said it was a good book. My seventh grader began again at the beginning as soon as he finished reading it the first time. Like him, I found too much in *Unwind* to grasp in a single reading. While there are disturbing aspects to the book—a boy's unwinding, though not graphically depicted, engages the reader's imagination to create a disturbing mental image—there is much to think about and discuss in the book. It most obviously brings up the debate over abortion, in addition to other complex issues we face today as a society.



Since the main character, Connor, is attempting to escape being unwound, the book's tone is sympathetic to the unwinds—to a certain extent. But even some unwinds have benefited from donor organs, without which they would not be alive. As in real life, there are no black and whites in *Unwind*. Readers are forced to confront their own views on various ethical issues, without being preached at or hit over the head with obvious moral lessons. We are allowed to think about our own views on difficult ethical issues because Shusterman doesn't tell us *what* to think, just that we—and the teens who are the book's intended audience—*should* think. That's what makes it an effective selection as the first *One Book for Nebraska Teens* title.

A library is...

“... an adjustable wrench for opening the mind.”
— M.T. Anderson